



Ice Breaker (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share about what your favorite summer dessert is and who makes it best.

Talk About it!

QUESTION 1

2 Kings 4:8-10 New Living Translation

8 One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat.

9 She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God. 10 Let's build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by."

Discuss:

What do the woman's choices reflect, and why do the woman's choices matter? How have you chosen to make room for God and make it personal? What choices could you make to step up how you're making room for God in your life?

QUESTION 2

2 Kings 4:11-17 New Living Translation

11 One day Elisha returned to Shunem, and he went up to this upper room to rest. 12 He said to his servant Gehazi, "Tell the woman from Shunem I want to speak to her." When she appeared, 13 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tell her, 'We appreciate the kind concern you have shown us. What can we do for you? Can we put in a good word for you to the king or to the commander of the army?'"

"No," she replied, "my family takes good care of me."

14 Later Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can we do for her?"

Gehazi replied, "She doesn't have a son, and her husband is an old man."

15 "Call her back again," Elisha told him. When the woman returned, Elisha said to her as she stood in the doorway, 16 "Next year at this time you will be holding a son in your arms!"

"No, my lord!" she cried. "O man of God, don't deceive me and get my hopes up like that."

17 But sure enough, the woman soon became pregnant. And at that time the following year she had a son, just as Elisha had said.

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Matthew 10:41 New Living Translation

41 If you receive a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will be given the same reward as a prophet. And if you receive righteous people because of their righteousness, you will be given a reward like theirs.

Discuss:

What is the relationship between honor, and favor or blessing? How could you grow in giving honor to God, the things of God, and the Man of God (so to speak)?

QUESTION 3

2 Kings 4:18-23 New Living Translation

18 One day when her child was older, he went out to help his father, who was working with the harvesters. 19 Suddenly he cried out, "My head hurts! My head hurts!"

His father said to one of the servants, "Carry him home to his mother."

20 So the servant took him home, and his mother held him on her lap. But around noontime he died. 21 She carried him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and left him there. 22 She sent a message to her husband: "Send one of the servants and a donkey so that I can hurry to the man of God and come right back."

23 "Why go today?" he asked. "It is neither a new moon festival nor a Sabbath." But she said, "It will be all right."

Discuss:

How do you feel about the phrase 'It shall be well'? What are the problems with this phrase - and this way of looking at things?

QUESTION 4

2 Corinthians 5:7 New Living Translation

7 For we live by believing and not by seeing.

Discuss:

Regarding 'It shall be well', what is the benefit of choosing faith? How are you needing to choose faith right now in your life?



QUESTION 5

2 Kings 4:24-31 New Living Translation

24 So she saddled the donkey and said to the servant, "Hurry! Don't slow down unless I tell you to."

25 As she approached the man of God at Mount Carmel, Elisha saw her in the distance. He said to Gehazi, "Look, the woman from Shunem is coming. 26 Run out to meet her and ask her, 'Is everything all right with you, your husband, and your child?'"

"Yes," the woman told Gehazi, "everything is fine."

27 But when she came to the man of God at the mountain, she fell to the ground before him and caught hold of his feet. Gehazi began to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone. She is deeply troubled, but the Lord has not told me what it is."

28 Then she said, "Did I ask you for a son, my lord? And didn't I say, 'Don't deceive me and get my hopes up?'"

29 Then Elisha said to Gehazi, "Get ready to travel; take my staff and go! Don't talk to anyone along the way. Go quickly and lay the staff on the child's face."

30 But the boy's mother said, "As surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I won't go home unless you go with me." So Elisha returned with her.

31 Gehazi hurried on ahead and laid the staff on the child's face, but nothing happened. There was no sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha and told him, "The child is still dead."

Discuss:

What kinds of people do you connect with when you have a problem or a challenge you're facing? Any 'Gehazis' you need to watch out for?

QUESTION 6

2 Kings 4:32-36 New Living Translation

32 When Elisha arrived, the child was indeed dead, lying there on the prophet's bed. 33 He went in alone and shut the door behind him and prayed to the Lord. 34 Then he lay down on the child's body, placing his mouth on the child's mouth, his eyes on the child's eyes, and his hands on the child's hands. And as he stretched out on him, the child's body began to grow warm again! 35 Elisha got up, walked back and forth across the room once, and then stretched himself out again on the child. This time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes!

36 Then Elisha summoned Gehazi. "Call the child's mother!" he said. And when she came in, Elisha said, "Here, take your son!"

Discuss:

What is the meaning of the specific physical placements and actions Elisha took? What is the meaning of this for you?